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# The Royce Reporter

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## New Ways to Keep in Touch

Dear Friend,

Technology and specifically e-communications are playing an increasing role in communicating with constituents. I want to be able to keep you better informed about the events occurring in our nation's capital. Similarly I want to be able to hear from you and my other constituents in the most accessible manner.

The tele-town hall is the latest in communication outreach tools I am using to keep in touch. A series of these town hall meetings were conducted via telephone, the first in the series began early January. This method of communication will open up yet another avenue for me to hear what's on your mind, and to give you the opportunity to ask questions about important issues before the House of Representatives—including border security and the need to restrain federal spending and balance the budget.

I also recently launched a new and improved electronic newsletter that features interactive surveys. The weekly e-newsletters also include video footage, photos and radio clips. Constituents interested in specific issue areas may sign up to receive the latest legislative updates specific to their interest.

All of these new types of constituent outreach will supplement the more traditional forms of communication I use to keep in touch, such as casual coffees, newsletters and in-person town halls.

Hopefully many of you plan to take advantage of these new methods of staying up-to-date on the important decisions being made in Washington, D.C. **To sign up for the new e-newsletters go to [www.royce.house.gov](http://www.royce.house.gov). You may also call the D.C. or Fullerton office to get signed up.**

Sincerely,

*Ed*

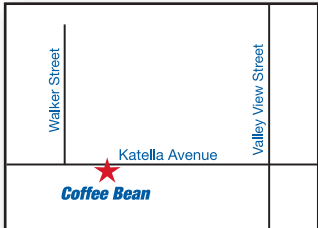
## Coming Events *An opportunity to discuss constituent issues*

### Coffee with Rep. Royce

*Saturday, March 15*

*9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.*

*Coffee Bean and  
Tea Leaf  
4957 Katella Ave.,  
Suite F • Cypress*

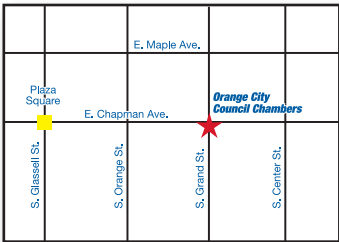


### Community Forum Meeting

*Saturday, March 15*

*1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

*Orange City Hall  
300 E. Chapman Ave.  
Orange*



*Royce attended the dedication event at Fullerton College with the President of Fullerton College, Kathy Hodge, and Manny Ontiveros, President of North Orange County Community College District.*



*Royce met with Tracy Young from CNN Headline News Local Edition and discussed international and domestic issues affecting the people of the 40th district.*



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## Helping Homeowners

The downturn in the housing industry is weighing heavily on our economy. Over the next two years, nearly two million subprime loans are scheduled to rise from their introductory “teaser” rates, to rates less appealing. In California alone, 500,000 rates are set to spike during this period. Unfortunately, the homeowner is not the only person affected when they lose their house to foreclosure. In communities with high foreclosure rates, the crime rate frequently goes up, tax revenues generated by local governments decline, and the neighboring property values decrease. The lenders and investors also suffer and the entire economy is impacted.

Because a wave of foreclosures would impact so many people, it is in the best interest of everyone involved to work toward preventing such an occurrence. In August, the HOPE NOW Alliance was established to help struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure.



*While on Fox Business News, Royce discussed the housing market and other financial services issues.*

As a part of HOPE NOW, U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson brought together private companies involved in the current mortgage turmoil to develop a solution that does not reward risky behavior but has the ability to slow down the number of foreclosures. Secretary Paulson’s initiative includes a five year freeze on a portion of adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) which are set to increase over the coming months. To qualify for this voluntary rate freeze by lenders, a borrower must prove they are currently able to pay their mortgage but will not be able to afford the payment when their rate resets. By making certain that this applies only to primary residences, it ensures speculators, “flippers” and property developers will not be advantaged.

Additionally, six of the largest mortgage servicers in the United States recently announced Project Lifeline, a targeted outreach to homeowners’ 90-days or more delinquent that may lead to a pause in the foreclosure process. This important voluntary initiative is intended to reach not only subprime borrowers, but all 90-day delinquent homeowners nationwide with a step-by-step approach to find individual solutions to individual problems.

While these voluntary agreements are a step in the right direction, communication is essential. If you are facing a potential foreclosure, it is important to learn about all of the options that are available to you to stay in your house while still meeting your obligations. By calling 888-995-HOPE, you can receive free confidential counseling about your particular housing concerns from a professional. This 24-hour hotline can provide you with information about HOPE NOW, Project Lifeline and other available options. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has several programs designed to promote homeownership and avoid foreclosures. You can reach HUD by visiting their website at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) or by calling 800-569-4287.

## Royce Congratulates Anaheim Ducks

Recently, the National Hockey League Champions, the Anaheim Ducks, visited the White House to celebrate their 2007 victory. Royce and Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle were also in attendance to applaud the team on their achievements.

The Anaheim Ducks are the first California team and the first west coast team since 1925 to win the National Championship. They finished their 06-07 season with a total of 48 wins.

The Ducks are champions both on and off the ice. The Ducks have contributed to their surrounding community numerous times through toy drives, cancer awareness programs and children’s hospital visits.

Royce is an original cosponsor of House Resolution 471 which congratulates the National Hockey League Champions, the Anaheim Ducks, on their victory in the 2007 Stanley Cup Finals. The resolution passed the House on July 30, 2007.



*Royce pictured with MVP player Scott Niedermayer, cosponsored a resolution congratulating the Anaheim Ducks on their Stanley Cup win.*

## Royce Supports Anti-Stalker Legislation

Rep. Royce spoke in favor of House Resolution 852, a bill raising awareness and encouraging prevention of stalking by establishing January 2008 as “National Stalking Awareness Month.” H.Res. 852 passed unanimously on January 23, 2008. This resolution will help increase public awareness of the rights, needs and concerns of victims and survivors of crime. Royce has been fighting to help stalking victims for a long time.

As a State Senator, Royce wrote the first stalking law in the country. The California Legislature passed this bill after four women were killed in the space of 6 weeks in Orange County, California. All four women, fearing for their life, had sought police protection only to be told that there was nothing that law enforcement could do until they were physically attacked. One police officer said the hardest thing he ever had to do in his life was tell a victim “There is nothing I can do until you’re attacked” and subsequently find the victim was killed. Today, all 50 states have put stalking laws on their books.

Once in Congress, Royce felt a change in federal law was also needed because victims were losing the protection of state laws when they crossed state lines. At the time, many states did not respect other states’ restraining orders. This new federal law was needed because people who moved to another state were losing their protection. This law provided a uniform federal law protecting stalking victims when they cross state lines to travel or work, and on federal property, such as post offices and military bases. **The bill was passed by Congress and signed into law, and subsequently several other nations have adopted legislation to protect stalking victims based upon Representative Ed Royce’s “Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act.”**



*Royce witnessed first hand our porous borders and the ineffectiveness of the current fencing.*



## Royce Initiates Stricter Border Controls

Last December, a new database to identify those attempting to enter the country on lost or stolen passports was implemented at Los Angeles International Airport. That same database, maintained by Interpol, recorded 129 “hits” in its first month of operation at New York’s Kennedy Airport. Such steps were taken after Rep. Ed Royce offered a successful floor amendment to the Department of Homeland Security Authorization bill mandating the implementation of the system.

**“For terrorists, travel documents are as important as weapons. That was a conclusion of the 9/11 Commission. Indeed, we have seen Islamist terrorists use stolen passports to carry out their murderous attacks. Ramzi Yousef used a stolen passport to enter the United States, claim asylum, and bomb the World Trade Center in 1993,” noted Royce, who serves as the Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs’ subcommittee on terrorism.**

Similarly, fraudulent passports were used by terrorists involved in the 2004 Madrid bombing and the 2005 London subway attacks. “Terrorist exploitation of our border vulnerabilities remains one of the most dangerous gaps in international security,” said Royce.

To help combat the dangers of terrorist travel, Interpol—the European based crime fighting organization—established the Stolen and Lost Travel Document database in 2002. The database contains over 14 million travel documents of differing types from 123 countries. Although the United States does have access to stolen passport information through its own systems and country-to-country agreements, there is a gaping hole. Of the 6.7 million passports in the Interpol database, the U.S. would have access to about 4.3 million through bilateral arrangements. That leaves nearly 2.5 million stolen passports that are not on our radar screen.

**Now, this window is being closed. The system developed by Interpol enables U.S. border security officials to check the passport database at ports of entry. The same swipe of the passport checks the Interpol database with a simultaneous check of the appropriate U.S. database, enhancing our security.**

This action on the security front, along with clearance of the backlog on legitimate passport applications for U.S. citizens, means good news all around on passports.



*During a visit to the border, Royce is briefed by the U.S. Border Patrol. The briefing highlighted the tough job our border patrol faces every day and the necessity of maintaining operational control of our borders.*

## Omnibus Spending Bill Jeopardizes Border Security

Rep. Royce was a cosponsor of the Secure Fence Act, and strongly supported it when it passed by overwhelming majorities in the House and Senate.

Unfortunately the new congressional leadership appears to be abandoning all efforts to enforce this new law. The omnibus spending bill also guts the Secure Fence Act and undermines this nation’s border security. The Secure Fence Act requires double fencing and puts a fence where it is needed most—in areas that have the highest instances of drug smuggling, human smuggling, and gang activity. The omnibus removes the two-tier requirement and the list of locations. It also puts up numerous bureaucratic and legal hurdles to undermine the fences completion.

“Many Americans strongly supported legislation to construct a fence to help slow illegal entry into the United States. Today they are baffled that Congress has taken such a step back from strengthening our border security,” said Royce.

Royce is demanding that the fence be finished and is co-sponsoring legislation to see that it happens. Specifically, Royce is working to require double-layered fencing and remove bureaucratic hindrances that adversely affect timely fence construction.

The number of violent incidents against border agents has increased from 752 in 2006 to 987 in 2007, a 31 percent increase. Agents are being assaulted with an arsenal of weaponry that includes bottles, knives, bats, ball bearings, steel pipes, cinder blocks, slingshots and vehicles. **As Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation, Royce held hearings on the border in San Diego and Laredo, Texas.** At the hearing the Border Patrol said the border fence will make an immediate impact in securing our borders and securing our nation.

*Royce discusses the need for increased border security on the Glenn Beck Show.*



## Help With a Federal Agency

One of the most important responsibilities a Member of Congress has is to help constituents interact with the many agencies and offices of the federal government. A constituent may receive help with matters involving government agencies and programs, including:

- Military Awards and Commendations
- Veterans’ Benefits
- Social Security and Medicare Benefits
- Federal Worker Injury Compensation
- Small Business Concerns
- Tax Issues and Internal Revenue Service
- Housing
- Student Loans
- Military Academy Applications

It is not possible to force an agency to expedite your case or act in your favor, but the office can frequently intervene to facilitate the processes involved, encourage an agency to give your case consideration and sometimes advocate for a favorable outcome.

To begin the process, federal agencies require a Privacy Act release form. A printable version of the Privacy Act release form can be found on the homepage of Royce’s website at [www.royce.house.gov](http://www.royce.house.gov). **A request for assistance with a federal agency can not begin until the Privacy Act release form is filled out in its entirety and submitted to the local office in Fullerton.**

If you require assistance in filling out the form please call the local office and staff will be available to assist you. It is important to note that the letter must be signed by the person directly affected or, in the case of USCIS, the person petitioning.

Please send the Privacy Act release form via mail, fax or in person to the Fullerton District Office, 305 N. Harbor Blvd., Suite 300, Fullerton, CA 92832.



## DTV Transition 2009

On February 17, 2009 the nation will undergo a change in the way television broadcasting is transmitted over-the-air, and it may affect television viewing in your home. On that date, all television stations will terminate broadcasting analog signals. After this date, only digital signals will be transmitted. The DTV Transition will provide television viewers with clearer pictures and more program choices, and will free up major portions of the airwaves for public safety communications such as police, fire and rescue, and for new broadband wireless services.

**If you have an analog television set which is connected to cable or satellite, those service providers will make sure that your television set receives a viewable image after the transition. If you have a digital television set, your television is ready for the DTV Transition.**

If you have an analog television set which receives signals by means of rabbit ears or an over-the-air antenna and you desire to keep this set in service, you will need to attach a small digital-to-analog converter box to your television set in order to continue receiving over-the-air television broadcasts. These converter boxes will be sold nation wide at retail stores and online. In addition, the federal government has a coupon program to help offset a portion of the cost to purchase converter boxes.

All U.S. households may request up to two \$40 coupons to go toward the purchase of up to two digital-to-analog converter boxes, which are expected to cost between \$50 and \$60 each. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), a federal government agency, is in charge of the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program. Upon request, the NTIA will mail up to two coupons and a list of local retailers in the area that sell converter boxes. The converter box coupons expire 90 days after they are issued. NTIA will mail coupons to eligible households that requested them once the converter boxes are available for purchase in retail stores. For more information about the Coupon Program and how to apply for coupons, go to the NTIA website at [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) or call 1-888-DTV-2009.

For additional information about the DTV Transition and what you may need to do to prepare for it, visit the Federal Communications Commission's website <http://www.dtv.gov/> or call 1-888-225-5322.

## Congressional Happenings

It has certainly been a busy time in Orange County, with public service groups, educational institutions, seniors, service members young and old and youth groups all very active in the community.



*Royce honors Fullerton resident and student intern Jennifer Yoo as she receives the Matsui Foundation Scholarship Award.*



*Chapman University students in Orange tour our nation's capital and discuss Rep. Ed Royce's current legislative priorities.*



*Rosary High School tours our nation's capital while learning about the role of the legislative branch.*



*Representative Royce discussed civics with Webelos scouts from the Fullerton school district.*



*Ed Royce, Sr., a WWII veteran, expressed his appreciation for the heroic rescues made by Bill Barnes, brother of Edith Lewis as Rep. Ed Royce, Jr., looks on. Petty Officer William Barnes' military medals, once lost, were recovered thanks to help of a hardworking case-worker.*



*Fullerton College President Kathy Hodge provides officials and community leaders with an overview of what is in store for the college as it celebrates 95 years of providing quality education to residents of Orange County.*